

Toddler & Preschool STEM: Bowling Alley

Learning Value:

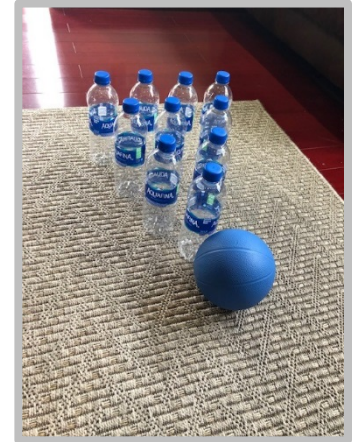
This activity promotes development and learning by encouraging children to demonstrate and understand cause-and-effect, and use reasoning and problem solving skills.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ 6 – 8 plastic water bottles, half-filled with water
- ▶ Balls in a variety of weights and sizes
- ▶ Smooth flat surface
- ▶ Paper and pencil (for older children)

Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction, however once set-up, children can play independently.



Directions:

Step 1: Set up a “bowling alley” by organizing the water bottles at the end of a smooth, flat surface.

Step 2: Help your child select a ball, and roll gently towards the pins. What happened? How many were knocked down?

Step 3: Have your child roll the ball with more force. What happened now? How many were knocked down?

Step 4: Select a different ball to roll. Did it have a different effect? Narrate the experience to your child and ask open-ended questions.

Extension: Have older children document their bowling experience by creating a chart or graph indicating how many pins they were able to knock over with each type of ball, or by the amount of force used (soft, medium, hard).